

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-28 are pending.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 8, 9, 14-16, 22, 23, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kajita U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0047065 (hereinafter "Kajita"). The Examiner objects to claims 4-7, 10-13, 17-21, and 24-27 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 15 to more clearly define the invention. Claim 16 has been amended to conform with amended independent claim 15. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

II. Summary of Telephonic Interview

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner and his Supervisor for the telephonic interview of October 5, 2005. Prior to the interview, applicants proposed amendments to independent claims 1 and 15, which further set forth that the predetermined positional references are located on a first plane substantially defined by a surface of the component, and that a distal end of the wire lead

manipulator exclusively enters the first plane to dispose the wire in the first plane at each of the predetermined references along the trajectory. Applicants asserted during the interview that these features are not shown or suggested by Kajita. The Examiner and his Supervisor agreed that the proposed amendments should overcome the current rejection over Kajita. Accordingly, applicants submit herewith claim amendments that include the additional features discussed during the interview.

III. Applicants' Invention

Applicants' invention, as set forth by independent claims 1 and 15, is directed toward an apparatus and method for disposing a wire lead along a trajectory having predetermined positional references relative to a dynamo-electric machine component. In particular, a wire lead manipulator having first and second portions is configured to dispose the wire lead along the trajectory at the predetermined positional references. The predetermined positional references being located on a first plane substantially defined by a surface of the component. The first portion of the manipulator being configured to receive the wire lead from a wire lead source. The second portion of the manipulator being configured to engage the wire lead received within the first portion. And, a distal end of the wire lead

manipulator exclusively enters the first plane to dispose the wire lead at each of the predetermined positional references along the trajectory by relative movement of the distal end in the first plane with respect to the predetermined positional references.

Therefore, by having only the distal end of the wire lead manipulator enter and move about the plane in which the wire lead is to be disposed at predetermined positional references, applicants' claimed approach enables the manipulator to enter within extremely narrow gaps on a surface of the dynamo-electric machine component, gaps which do not allow the passage of conventional wire lead manipulator apparatus.

IV. Applicants' Claims are Patentable over Kajita

Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 15 are patentable over Kajita at least because Kajita fails to show or suggest a distal end of the wire lead manipulator that exclusively enters a first plane (that is substantially defined by a surface of the component and on which predetermined positional references are located along a trajectory) to dispose the wire lead at each of the predetermined positional references along the trajectory by relative movement of the distal end in the first plane with respect to the predetermined position references, as required by applicants' claims. In contrast, Kajita's

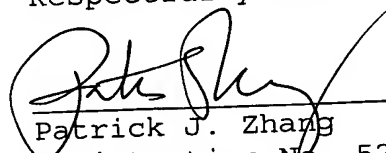
jig 11 merely retains wire W before rotating to allow the wire to naturally fall down onto winding part 3 (Kajita, ¶ 35). Nowhere does Kajita show or even suggest that a distal portion of retaining jig 11 is configured to enter within a plane substantially defined by a surface of its stator to dispose wire W at each of the predetermined positional references in the plane by relative movement in the plane.

Accordingly, at least because Kajita fails to show or suggest all of the features of applicants' independent claims, applicants submit that claims 1-3, 8, 9, 14-16, 22, 23, and 28 are patentable over Kajita.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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